(f) There is no drinking water projects in Maharashtra connected with Tillari Project. However, 57.433 MCM of water is reserved for drinking and industrial use of Goa State. At present, water is being released to Goa for their Chandel Drinking Water Project through RBC of Tillari project since the year 2003.

Paradigm shift in water policy

276. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists are concerned over the steady decline in per capita water availability in the country and have called for proper planning to reverse the negative trend;

(b) whether in 1991, per capita fresh water availability in the country was 2,209 litre while it came down to only 1,820 litres in 2000 and by 2005, this is expected to further come down to only 1,341 litres;

(c) whether these scientists have suggested that to ensure availability of minimum fresh water to the people, there is an urgent need for paradigm shift in water policy; and

(d) whether Government have considered their suggestions?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The average annual water availability in the country if assessed as 1869 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) which may be considered to remain unchanged. The annual per capita water availability in the country works out to be 2209 cubic metre as per the 1991 census. On the basis of the 2001 census, the annual per capita water availability has been estimated to 1820 cubic metre and as per the projected population for the year 2025, the annual per capita water availability is assessed as 1340 cubic metre.

The scientists, researchers and planners have expressed concerns about the water resources scenario emerging due to population growth, industrialization and urbanization from time to time at various fora. Several research papers and recommendations of Seminar, Symposium, Conferences etc. have addressed these issues and numerous suggestions relating the need for integrated and comprehensive planning for development, adoption of better management practices and implementation of efficient water management techniques and water saving measures have been made. Observations/views have also been received in respect of National Water Policy (NWP) from various sources. These suggestions are duly examined and appropriately addressed.

Measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages through major, medium and minor irrigation projects, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water adoption of better management practices etc. Government of India provides necessary technical and financial assistance to the State Governments through various schemes/ programmes. The Ministry of Water Resources encourage conservation of water including measures such as traditional water conservation practices, rainwater harvesting and recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices.

Inter-linking of rivers

277. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRA SEKHAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve a long term policy for the inter-linking of rivers in the country so as to ensure that the annual floods don't cause havoc; and

(b) if so, by when that is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980. The NPP comprises of two components *viz.* (i) Peninsular Rivers Development and (ii) Himalayan Rivers Development and envisages construction of storages on various river systems along with interlinking canal systems to transfer water from water surplus areas to water deficit regions. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up on 1982 to study the feasibility of Inter-basin water transfer proposals and give a concrete shape to NPP. The Inter-linking propos .ls under NPP envisages additional benefits of 25 million ha. of irrigation from surface waters, 10 million ha. by increased use of ground waters and generation of 34 million KW of power apart from the incidental benefits of flood moderation, navigation, water supply, salinity and pollution control etc.

Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links for preparation of feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of these, FRs of 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 Links (Indian portion) under Himalayan Component have already been completed. NWDA has taken up the work of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for one priority link *viz.* Ken-Betwa under Peninsular Component.

The implementation of inter basin water transfer proposals depends upon the consensus and cooperation of the concerned States and agreements with the neighbouring countries.

Maintenance of water bodies in Goa

278. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given financial assistance to the State Government of Goa to preserve, maintain and develop water bodies;

(b) if so, the quantum of financial assistance given so far;

(c) whether the water bodies in the State with respect to which financial assistance is given/ proposed to be given, have been identified; and

(d) if so, the details as regards each of these water bodies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No financial assistance was given to the State Government of Goa under the Pilot Scheme on "National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture" launched by the Central Government in January, 2005.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Survey for locating ground water

279. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has conducted any survey of different landscapes to spot out ground water resources;

(b) if so, the States where this survey has been done; and